



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

Held on the 12th of May, 1849.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF ELLESMERE,

PRESIDENT,

IN THE CHAIR.

THE FOLLOWING REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

WAS READ BY THE HONORARY SECRETARY:—

THE Council of the Royal Asiatic Society have a melancholy duty to perform in recording the deep regret of the Society for the sudden and unlooked-for decease of their late President, the EARL OF AUCKLAND. The heavy pressure of public business had for some time rendered it impossible for his Lordship to attend, as he had done before his accession to office, the meetings of the Society or the Council, though he indulged the hope that greater leisure might yet be afforded to him to resume the duties of the President's office, in which he had always taken a lively interest.

Little more than a month before his lamented decease, Lord Auckland thus expressed his own feelings in a note to the Secretary:—"I am often ashamed of the very small amount of service that I can render to the Asiatic Society while I am in office; and though my interest in your objects, and my attention to them, would revive, if I were at liberty, I often think that I ought to make way for a more efficient President. Might it not be an improvement in our constitution if, as is the case in other societies, the President were chosen only for a short term? It would give the Society a better chance than it has at present of insuring vigour in the officer who should be at the head of its direction." The Council were engaged in considering the suggestion thus thrown out, when they learned, with unfeigned sorrow, that the nation had been, by a sudden stroke, deprived of an able
1849.] b

and upright minister; the Society of an efficient President; and his many friends, of one beloved for his private virtues, and the never-failing kindness of his heart.

While the Earl of Auckland was Governor-General of India he was a zealous promoter of all designs which had in view the extension of knowledge, and the enlargement of native education. Institutions for the cultivation of medical science received his particular attention; and we have witnessed the success of his measures for preparing Hindu youth for distinction in a profession of such essential benefit to the native population of our Indian empire, in the remarkable progress and high distinction attained by the students who came to this country under the care of Dr. Goodeve, and in the practical advantages resulting from the employment of native sub-assistant surgeons, in charge of various dispensaries in Bengal and the North Western provinces.

Whenever expeditions were sent forth in furtherance of military or political operations, there was provision made for the pursuit of every branch of useful knowledge, and for the researches of science and art. In aid of such valuable labours, Lord Auckland had caused a volume to be prepared, under the directions of the most able men in each department of inquiry, containing a very extensive series of questions and suggestions on every topic of interesting research. This valuable collection will remain, not only as an abiding testimony of his Lordship's enlightened views, but also as a practical guide and director to the researches of future investigators.

It does not fall within the scope of these remarks to dwell on the more prominent characteristics of Lord Auckland's life, which are those of a British statesman, and the ruler of our extensive empire in India. These subjects belong to the historian, who will best record his faithful services to his Sovereign and his country.

The Society has also recently lost one of its first founders and most zealous supporters, the Right Hon. Sir ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, who in the first year of its existence was appointed a Vice-President, and Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence.

The whole of the active life of this highly distinguished servant of the Crown was bound up with every topic of interest in Indian history and research. Taken to Madras, at the early age of five, by his father, who held an office of trust under the government of Lord Macartney, he passed the ensuing six years in the acquirement of various knowledge—partly under the direction of the late Sir Thomas Munro, General Leith, and Colonel Colin Mackenzie, who, at that period, were themselves ardent cultivators of those talents which were to raise them to the most important posts in the administration of the political, judicial, and revenue affairs of the Madras Presidency—and in the investigation of the geography, antiquities, and history of the provinces of Southern India. His religious training was entrusted

to the learned, pious, and earnest missionary, Schwartz; and the periods of relaxation from mental study were devoted to the strengthening of his frame by the athletic exercises of the native warriors, and to the sports of the field, in company with the Poligar Chiefs of Madura, and its neighbourhood.

After his return to England he was, at an early age, entered a member of Lincoln's Inn; and was afterwards taken by his father, first to France, and thence to Göttingen. While profiting by the ability of the professors of law at that university, he was at the same time acquiring an intimate acquaintance with the languages and literature of modern Europe; and thus was his mind trained by extent and variety of acquirement, to the facility which it ever after exhibited in applying itself with readiness and success to the attainment of diversified knowledge, extending over a wide field of investigation and research.

In 1802 he returned to India, having been appointed to the office of Advocate-Fiscal in Ceylon; and there he at once devoted the powers of his active mind to obtain an insight into the feelings and habits, as well as the religion and laws of the native inhabitants, and the history of the island. So comprehensive and valuable were his acquirements in all these subjects, and so enlarged his views, that in three years after his arrival in the colony, on the occurrence of a vacancy in the important offices of Chief Justice, and First Member of His Majesty's Council, Sir Alexander was provisionally appointed by the Governor, Sir Thomas Maitland, to fill those high offices; and was also recommended by him to the Government at home for confirmation in those honourable appointments, in terms which shewed the sense entertained by Sir Thomas Maitland of his qualifications for the discharge of those duties in the way most beneficial to the best interests of the rulers and the subjects. Of Sir Alexander Johnston's merits, his Excellency thus expressed himself:—

“For filling any such appointment, the strongest recommendation that can be proposed, is his being fully master, not only of the laws and customs, but of the habits and prejudices, religious and political, of the people over whom he was to preside as the head of the law; and in this most important point I will venture to say, that if any one is his equal, no one can be his superior; and there is no circumstance which can, in my mind, militate, in the smallest degree, against the very superior claims he has a just right to set up, from his assiduity, from his talents, and from the deep knowledge he possesses of everything, civil and judicial, appertaining to this island.”

The period between the appointment of Sir Alexander by His Majesty in 1806, till 1809, was employed in maturing his plans for measures of the greatest value and importance that could occupy the mind of the statesman and the philanthropist in the regions where his duties were assigned. Chief among these were the establishment of the trial by jury, and the abolition of slavery. With a view to the introduction of the former of these measures, and of other important reforms in the administration of the judicial

and political systems of the insular government, Sir Alexander returned to England, in 1809, with the approbation and support of Sir Thomas Maitland.

The success which attended the employment of respectable natives as jurors has fully justified the wisdom which projected the means of thus raising the character of the natives, by drawing forth the energies of their minds, and teaching them to appreciate the value of a pure administration of justice. It is most satisfactory to observe, that since the establishment of jury trials, the Government have been enabled to select from the respectable body of jurors, some of the most efficient magistrates on the island. To the influence of the system on the moral feelings of the people generally, the successor of Sir Alexander thus adverted in a speech delivered when the experience of eight years had fairly and fully tested the benefits with which it was fraught :—

“To this happy system, now deeply cherished in the affections of the people, and revered as much as any of their oldest and dearest institutions, I do confidently ascribe this pleasing alteration; and it may be boldly asserted, that while it continues to be administered with firmness and integrity, the British Government will hold an interest in the hearts of its Singalee subjects, which the Portuguese and Dutch possessors of this island were never able to establish.”

The endeavours of Sir Alexander Johnston to extirpate slavery, which were continued for ten years, first manifested their result in 1816. In July of that year, the gentlemen on the list for special jurymen in the province of Columbo responded to an address of the Chief Justice, by calling a meeting of proprietors of slaves, at which they unanimously resolved that all children of slaves, born after the 12th of the following August, should be free; and a committee of their body adopted a series of provisions by which their beneficent intentions were facilitated; the principal object of these was to form a fund for the maintenance of the children until the age of fourteen, when it was expected they would be able to support themselves. A resolution of the Directors of the African Institution, which is contained in their eleventh report, conveys the appreciation of the measure in Europe. It is as follows :—

“The Directors are persuaded that they express the cordial feeling of the Institution at large in offering the tribute of their grateful acknowledgment to Sir Alexander Johnston for his successful exertions in promoting,—and to the special and other jurymen of the island—for their general adoption of this important change in the condition of their country; and for the bright example which they have taken the lead in exhibiting to the world, of fixing a period for the extinction of the state of domestic slavery,—an example which the Directors trust will speedily be followed wherever it may be done with safety. But whether this hope be realised or not, it will never be forgotten that the inhabitants of Columbo were the first of the British

colonists to act upon this grand, noble, liberal, and disinterested principle; and they will for ever deserve the best thanks of every individual who has at heart the advancement of the happiness of mankind, and the improvement of human nature."

While thus occupied in promoting the most important interests of the Cingalese, Sir Alexander Johnston was not unmindful of the value of obtaining and diffusing accurate views of their social institutions and religious beliefs. As fruits of his especial encouragement and patronage, we owe to Mr. Upham the publication of the "Mahavansi, and other sacred and historical books of Ceylon,"—a work which, although since superseded by Mr. Turnour's more authentic researches, was, for some time after its appearance, the only authority for the subject of which it treats.

The never-failing interest exhibited by Sir Alexander in the operations and pursuits of this Society, is well known to all the members. His liberality added largely to the collections in our museum; and although during the last two or three years his gradually declining health, and his more frequent residence on his estate of Carnsalloch, near Dumfries, often deprived the Society of his presence on occasions when, but for those causes, he would not have been absent from his accustomed place. The Members will recur, with mingled feelings of regret and satisfaction, to the animated and instructive discourses which, as Chairman of the Committee of Correspondence, he, for some years, delivered at our annual meetings, imparting in a comprehensive survey, a notice of the various operations carried on, throughout the regions of Asia, in discovery, in science, in history, and literature; and noticing the most remarkable labours of Oriental scholars in Europe. The death of Sir Alexander Johnston,—a man whose mind was so variously and richly endowed, and whose sympathy with this Society was so deep and so unchangeable—has left a blank which will not readily be filled up.

The list of deaths in the present Report will be found to include the name of our first Treasurer, Mr. JAMES ALEXANDER, than whom the Society never possessed a more sincere friend, or one more anxious for its welfare. His judicious and practical mind established the financial arrangements of the Society, and he gave his attention for many years to their development and progress, as well as to the general duties of the Council, of which he was, *ex officio*, a member; and after the failure of his health had compelled him to relinquish the office he had so ably filled, he presented for a succession of four years the munificent sum of £100, as an annual donation to the funds of the Society. His memory will be held in deserved remembrance by those Members who had the happiness of his personal acquaintance; and in respect by all.

JOHN ROBERT STEUART, Esq., rendered much service to the Numismatic Department of Oriental Archaeology by the large collections of coins which he made during several journeys in Persia and India. There is no doubt

that the first clue which led the late James Prinsep to the deciphering of the Saurashtran coins was provided by the two plates published in the fourth volume of our journal; in the second of which he presented a *resumé* of all the inscriptions on those coins, and arranged them on a plan which tended to facilitate considerably the task of a decipherer. A collection made by Mr. Steuart, of the coins of the Arsacides and Sassanides, amounting to 250 in number, and constituting the finest and most valuable series known of those coins, was purchased by the British Museum, which has also among its treasures many Greek and Roman medals, collected by him in Italy and Sicily; and a large number of gems and cylinders, with Babylonian ornaments, figures, and cuneiform inscriptions, procured in the neighbourhood of Baghdad and Hillah.

Among the collections of Mr. Steuart, is a large number of coins of the earliest Arab dynasties of Persia, with legends in the Pahlavi character, of which only a few specimens had been hitherto published. Some of these interesting specimens have been read and illustrated by Professor J. Olshausen; and a paper is preparing for our journal by Mr. Thomas, who is in possession of the best materials for elucidating a period of Eastern history when the civilization and religion of the fire-worshippers of Persia was retreating before the new-born energy of the Mahometan invaders.

Mr. Steuart is also the author of a description of the ancient monuments of Lydia and Phrygia, published in a handsome illustrated folio volume, in 1842; and he has left a number of papers on archæological subjects, which he is believed to have prepared with a view to their publication.

THE CHEVALIER DE CASTELBRANCO was a Portuguese gentleman who had for some time resided in Paris, in consequence of political vicissitudes in his own country. He was acquainted with several Oriental languages, one of which, the Arabic, he spoke with much ease. With the assistance of a native, M. Castelbranco had prepared a grammar of the modern Chaldee language, as it is spoken by the races who inhabit the countries near the head of the Tigris, and in the vicinity of the ancient Nineveh; and it is hoped that so valuable a work on the language of a people who have preserved the Christian faith in the midst of the followers of Mahomet may not remain in MS. M. de Castelbranco, by the aid of his social position and large fortune, has been a munificent patron of persons engaged in philological pursuits under less favourable circumstances than he was himself placed; and he has, on several occasions, lent valuable assistance in furtherance of literary enterprise. He died of apoplexy in January last.

JOHN GOLDINGHAM, Esq., resided many years at Madras, as the Astronomer of the East India Company's Government at that Presidency. Two volumes of Observations made during the period of his having charge of the Observatory of Fort St. George attest his professional diligence; and have

added an important and extensive body of accurate data to the general stock of materials for scientific investigation. Mr. Goldingham held for some years the office of Civil Engineer at Madras. The elegant banquetting-room at the Government House of that Presidency, on the model of the Parthenon, was erected by him in the years 1800-1; as were also the public buildings at Vellore required for the accommodation of the Mysore Princes, after the capture of Seringapatam, in 1799. Although Mr. Goldingham was not an Oriental scholar, he took much interest in the history and antiquities of India; and wrote an account of the sculptures at Mahabalipur, on the Coromandel Coast, which was printed in the fifth volume of the Asiatic Researches.

Besides those distinguished individuals of whom the Society has to lament the loss, we have been deprived by death and retirement of a more than ordinary number of members. The totals may be thus stated:—deaths of Honorary Member, 1*; of Resident and Non-Resident Members, 11†; retirements of Contributing Members, 12‡; making a total number of 25. The elections during the same period have been, of Contributing Members, 12§; and of Corresponding Members, 1||. The total number of Members of the Society is therefore less than that of the preceding year by 12.

The Council cannot feel a doubt that the advantages derived from the removal to the present house, both in the arrangement of the library, and the laying out of the museum, will afford sufficient inducement to persons interested in the objects of the Society's pursuits, to join the ranks of its members; but they must look to the exertions of the present Members to make known those advantages, and to present their friends for election. The noble munificence of the Honourable Court of Directors of the East India Company, who have doubled their annual donation, claims the best exertions

* His Majesty Shahen Shah, King of Persia.

† The Earl of Auckland; James Alexander, Esq.; Sir Thomas Baring, Bart.; the Chevalier de Castelbranco; John Curteis, Esq.; Lieutenant-Colonel J. D'Arcy; John Goldingham, Esq.; Archibald Hamilton, Esq.; the Right Hon. Sir Alexander Johnston; J. R. Steuart, Esq.; George Strachey, Esq.

‡ T. P. B. Biscoe, Esq.; F. H. Brett, Esq.; Sir Howard Douglas, Bart., M.P.; Captain R. P. Fulcher; W. R. Hamilton, Esq.; Major T. B. Jervis; the Rev. C. W. I. Jones; Wm. Lavin, Esq.; Edmund F. Moore, Esq.; Sir Thomas Phillips; Frederick Schönerstedt, Esq.; Lieutenant T. Waghorn, R.N.

§ Ali Mahommed Khan; Arthur Ashpitel, Esq.; J. H. Crawford, Esq.; Grant H. T. Heatley, Esq.; John Hutt, Esq.; W. H. Martin, Esq.; Lieutenant-Colonel Peter J. Petit, C.B.; the Rev. Theodore Preston; Edward C. Ravenshaw, Esq.; T. C. Robertson, Esq.; John Stewart, Esq.; Henry H. Thomas, Esq. j

|| C. Kelaart, Esq., Trinidad.

of every Member of the Society to raise the annual income to an amount sufficient to enable the Council to carry out with liberality the designs and operations for the furtherance of which it has been associated.

Among the donations presented during the past year, is a cast of the Obelisk of Nineveh, which we owe to the munificence of Sir George Staunton, from whom the library and museum of the Society have received very many valuable contributions. This obelisk presents a succession of bas-reliefs on its surface, which make it one of the most interesting relics of the ancient times to which it must be attributed. It contains also a long and excellently preserved inscription, detailing, it is supposed, year by year, the transactions of a reign of thirty-one years of a monarch whose name is unknown in history, and is yet but imperfectly deciphered. With the very limited means we possess of interpreting the meaning either of the sculptures or of the characters intended to explain them, we are only enabled to perceive that in a certain year, a warrior, whose name is but half read, had led armies against many cities; and that he brings home various trophies of victory, but consisting of objects unknown to us. More positive results, however, we doubt not, are now in the possession of Major Rawlinson, which will, in all probability, be communicated to the Society in the course of the year; for we derive a cheering prospect from the recent letters of this indefatigable archaeologist, who has laboured with such marvellous success in the other languages expressed in the characters formed of the same arrow-headed elements: after some fluctuations of hope and disappointment, he states that he now trusts to be able to read the inscriptions almost as satisfactorily as he read the Persian text at Behistun. The Society is also anxiously waiting for the completion of his dictionary of the Persepolitan language, of which one-half is already printed, and would be in the hands of the Members, were it not thought advisable to wait until the whole is completed. We also look forward to his long-promised memoir on the inscriptions in the so-called Median language, which are better preserved at Behistun than even the Persepolitan, and which must prove of great interest to philologists as being probably a specimen of the Tartar class of languages, now only traceable in their remains existing in modern dialects. Major Rawlinson was engaged in a memoir on the Median inscription, for which his knowledge of the Turkish branch of that class of language admirably fits him: this work was understood to be near completion; and we hope the more exciting discoveries from ancient Assyria may not much delay that portion of Major Rawlinson's labours.

The library of the Society has been enriched during the past year by some important donations. The very valuable collection of Oriental Manuscripts and printed books presented by John Romer, Esq., contains several works of high repute and interest, of which there were previously no copies

in the Society's possession. Nineteen of the Manuscripts are in Persian, and three in Hindustani. Among the former are copies of the *Farhang i Jahangiri*; the *Burhān i Kāfi*; the *Shah Namah*; the *Nigārīstān*, and *Āyār Dānish*. There is also a volume of the *Rauzat us safā*; a history of Guzerat, in three volumes, entitled the *Mīrat i Ahmadi*; a copy of the *Jahangir namah*; of the *Tarikh i Sind*; and other works of historical or literary interest. This department has also received a very interesting accession in two Persian Manuscripts, presented by Sir Claude Wade. The first of these is called "*Tārīkh i Mahārāja Rānjit Singh*;" and contains a history of that monarch's family, and an account of his life up to the year 1831. It was written by Lala Sohan Lal, who filled the office of historian at the Sikh Court; and it was presented to Sir Claude by the Mahārāja himself. The other volume is the "*Tārīkh i Dāūd-pūtra*," or History of the Nawābs of the Bhāwalpūr State. This also is a work recognised as an authority by the house of Bhāwalpūr; and was given to Sir Claude by the reigning Chief. A copy of Baron Hügel's "*Kashmir und das Reich der Siek*," richly bound, has been received from the noble author. The series of plates in the work, illustrative of natural history are beautifully coloured; and are valuable, as only a very few copies have received this additional illustration.

The Council adverts with pleasure to the edition of a code of laws in the Pali language, which is in course of preparation by Dr. Rost, under the auspices, and at the expense, of the Right Honourable the President of the Society. This code, the existence of which has been unknown to Europeans, was discovered by Dr. Rost among the Manuscripts at the British Museum. It claims to have been promulgated in the 5th century of the Christian era, and is, at all events, of considerable antiquity, though its form and contents shew it to have been founded on the laws of Manu, as might be inferred from the name of its reputed author, *Manusara*. It is accompanied by a translation and commentary in the Burmese language, adapting its provisions to the wants of more recent times; and appears to be the text book of the Burman courts of law, as well of those of the other Buddhistic countries beyond the Ganges.

Oriental Translation Fund.

The Committee of the Oriental Translation Fund have recently published a very curious work of ecclesiastical antiquity, entitled "*The Apostolic Constitutions*;" or *Canons of the Apostles*," in Coptic, with an English translation, by the Venerable H. Tattam, D.D., Archdeacon of Bedford. This work is not the same as the "*Didascalia or Apostolic Constitutions*," translated by Mr. T. Pell Platt from the Ethiopic, and published by the Committee several years since. The latter work, though highly interesting, appears to contain rather a gloss upon certain canons than the canons them-

selves, of which it enumerates only twenty-two; or it is greatly interpolated and corrupted, possibly by the Ebionites, but more probably in order to justify the retention of Jewish rites in the Abyssinian Church. Dr. Tattam's work consists of a translation of that ancient code (in seven books and numerous canons) of ecclesiastical regulations, which may be more properly styled "The Apostolic Canons," and which possesses some authority and value; for although their composition cannot be attributed either to the Apostles, or to Clement of Rome, whose name they have sometimes borne, yet they are of very remote antiquity, and contain those rites and ceremonies which have ever been observed in the Eastern Church, and which differ from those of the Western. They were finally recognised and adopted in the Council held at Constantinople, A.D. 692, called the Council in Trullo,* a Council which the Westerns never consented to receive.

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Society, the Committee have accepted an offer, from the Rev. W. Cureton, of an English translation of "Analecta Biographica Syriacè; or Lives of Eminent Bishops and others, illustrative of the History of the Church in the East, during the fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries."

The Committee, in January last, had the satisfaction to receive from Professor Flügel, a notification that the causes which had so long retarded the continuation of his labours on his great work, "Haji Khalifæ Lexicon Encyclopædicum et Bibliographicum," are now removed; and that he hopes to be enabled to forward the fifth volume to England in the course of the year. Forty sheets are already printed, from which it appears that the Lexicon has advanced as far as the letter Lām.

The Committee are gratified in receiving assurances of a renewed interest in their proceedings; and only regret that from a diminution in the number of Subscribers, arising principally from deaths, the assistance which they can offer to translators is still extremely inadequate to the claims they would desire to recognize and encourage.

Oriental Text Society.

The report of the Oriental Text Society for the past year will be more interesting to its subscribers from the number of new works announced for publication, than for what has been actually printed, the Society's operations having been directed rather to the completion of works already named in a former report, but which could not be delivered to the subscribers within the limit of the last anniversary.

Its new undertakings are chiefly in Persian; in which, for the historical part, Mr. Morley prepares an edition of Báfhaki's rare and valuable History

* The Sixth General Council was held at Constantinople, under Constantino Pogonatus, in 680, against Monothelites. The Seventh called that in Trullo, under Justinian the Second, in 692, also styled Quinisextum.]

of Sultan Mas'ud of Ghazna, of which only two manuscripts, both incomplete, are known to exist. From the union of these two, a perfect text is obtained; and considerable progress has already been made in its preparation.

In the interval between his editions of the poems of the *Khamseh* of Jami, Professor Falconer prints the *Nigáristán* of Juwaini, a valuable and elegantly written collection of apologues, in the style of the *Gulistán*, and which, in distinction from the historical work of the same name by Abdul Ghaffár, may be called the moral, or didactic "Picture Gallery." The learned Professor in the mean time continues the publication of Jami's poems: and announces, as the next in the series, the romance of *Selámán* and *Abšál*, which has hitherto remained wholly untouched in text or translation.

Mr. Bland proposes an edition of the "*Macámáti Hamídí*;" the *Macamahs*, or *Séances* of Hamíduddín of Balkh, a Persian imitation of the celebrated work of Harírí. This composition is highly curious, as an attempt to exercise in a language of so simple a nature as the Persian, the rhetorical and complicated style hitherto only exhibited in the more copious and flexible idioms of the Semitic branch. Copies of the work are only found in the British Museum, and in the collection of the late Sir William Ouseley, at the Bodleian Library.

Mr. Bland also undertakes a text of the *Diwan* of the Turkish poet Báki, from a collation, already made, of numerous manuscripts. Báki is considered the *Háfiz* of Osmanli literature, and was justly selected for translation, many years since, by the learned taste of Von Hammer, who styled him the Prince of Turkish poets; but the text, by a singular chance, has been omitted in the extensive series of *Diwans* printed at the native press in Constantinople. Its publication in this country will be a novelty in Oriental Literature; and forms a commencement, it is hoped, towards removing the reproach already cast on us by our continental neighbours, of neglecting the study and encouragement of so rich and polished a language as that of European Turkey.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

The Accounts of the Society for the year 1848 have been this day audited by the undersigned, who have to report the correctness of the books, and that the entries therein are properly vouched and duly authenticated. The Accounts of the removal have not yet been finally closed, but the Auditors are glad to have to remark that the total amount is under what was anticipated it would amount to.

The RECEIPTS during the year for Annual Subscriptions, Ad-	£.	s.	d.
mission Fees, and Compositions, amount to	599	11	0
From the Honourable East India Company	210	0	0
From Dividends on Consols	56	11	10
From Oriental Translation Fund	30	0	0
Publications sold	22	3	3

	£918 6 1
Proceeds of £642 17s. 1d. Consols sold	564 3 9
Balance brought from 1847	283 11 10

Making a total, on the debit side of the Account for 1848, of £1766 1 8

The DISBURSEMENTS during the year 1848 were as follow :—

House Rent (Grafton Street)	264	13	7
House Rent (New Burlington Street)	140	0	0
Rates and Taxes	29	14	0
House Expenses	110	11	5
Salaries and Wages	262	12	0
Printing Journal (No. XVIII)	230	13	5
Sundry Disbursements	84	4	9
	£1122	9	2

Total Imprests to House Committee for Repairs at 14, Grafton Street, and for Fixtures, Carpenter's Work, Bookcases, Carpets, Blinds, &c., at 5, New Burlington Street

pets, Blinds, &c., at 5, New Burlington Street	450	0	0
Giving a total expenditure in 1848 of	£1572	9	2
And leaving a Balance in hand, on the 31st Dec. 1848, of	193	12	6
	<u>£1766</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>

W. MORISON,
JAMES FERGUSON, } *Auditors on the part
of the Society.*

WILLIAM H. MORLEY, { Auditor on the part
of the Council.

5, NEW BURLINGTON STREET,
5th May, 1849.

ABSTRACT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, from 1st of January to 31st of December, 1848.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
121 Subscriptions of Resident Members, at 3 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> each	381 3 0	House Rent, (Grafton Street) from Midsummer, 1847, to Michaelmas, 1848	264 13 7
44 ditto, Original Members, at 2 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> each	92 8 0	Ditto, (New Burlington Street) from Lady Day to Michaelmas, 1848	140 0 0
6 ditto, Non-Resident Members, at 2 <i>l.</i> 2 <i>s.</i> each	12 12 0	Rates and Taxes, (Grafton Street)	17 4 2
Arrears of Subscriptions paid up	8 8 0	Ditto (New Burlington Street)	12 9 10
12 Admission Fees, at 5 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i>	£494 11 0	House Expenses and Housekeeper's Wages	70 1 6
1 Composition, 15 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> ; 1 do. 26 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i>	63 0 0	Coals, 12 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> ; Bedding, &c., for Porter, 4 <i>l.</i> 6 <i>s.</i> 11 <i>d.</i>	16 16 11
One Year's Dividend on Consols.	56 11 10	Plumber and Glazier, 5 <i>l.</i> 7 <i>s.</i> 2 <i>d.</i> ; Carpenter, &c., 18 <i>l.</i> 5 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i>	23 13 0
Publications sold	22 3 3	Salaries of Assistant-Secretary, Clerk, Porter, and Armourer	235 12 0
Annual Donation from East India Company	210 0 0	Collector's Poundage on Subscriptions	27 0 0
Ditto from Oriental Translation Fund	30 0 0	Printer's Bill for Journal, No. XVIII., (1848)	149 7 3
	318 15 1	Sewing Copies of Journal, &c.	40 0 2
	£918 6 1	Engraving and Lithography	41 6 0
Proceeds of £642 17 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i> Consols sold	564 3 9	Books and Periodicals	12 12 8
Balance brought from 1847	283 11 10	Stationery and Sundry Printing	14 4 3
		Bookbinding, 11 <i>l.</i> 7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> ; Postage and Carriage, 9 <i>l.</i> 16 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	21 4 2
		Porterage and Carriage at removal, and Sundries	31 5 7
		Petty Disbursements	4 18 1
		Imprests to House Committee for Repairs at 14, Grafton Street, and for Carpenter's Work, Bookcases, Carpets, Blinds, &c., at 6, New Burlington Street, and for Fixtures at ditto	84 4 9
		Balance in hand, end of 1848	£1572 9 2
			193 12 6
			£1766 1 8

[Assets, £1300 in 3 per Cent. Consols.]

The reading of the Reports having been concluded, CAPTAIN EASTWICK moved :—

“That the Report of the Council, and that of the Auditors, now read, be received ; and that the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Auditors for their able and satisfactory discharge of their important duties.”

The Motion was seconded by GENERAL DE LA MOTTE, and carried unanimously.

SIR GEORGE STAUNTON moved the thanks of the Meeting to the President for his kindness in taking the chair that day, and for the great interest he had long taken in the promotion of the objects of the Society. Sir George said he was much gratified in being entrusted with this motion, as he was confident it would receive the cordial and unanimous support of the Meeting. He had not, indeed, the topics which it was most usual to advance on such occasions : he could not appeal to the past services of the President, as those who may be entrusted with a similar motion at future anniversaries will undoubtedly be able to do ; for his Lordship had only been recently elected, and we had at present the gratification of seeing him in the chair of the Society for the first time. Yet, he would undertake to say, that on no former occasion was the President in the chair better entitled to the grateful acknowledgments of the Society. High as had been the character and great the services of our former Presidents, the Society had in every instance possessed some claim upon them, either on the score of their official station in connexion with India, or their long residence in that country. Upon the Noble Lord, who had now so kindly and readily responded to the wishes of the Council, by allowing himself to be put in nomination as President, we could not make any such claim. We could not expect him to undertake an office of such responsibility, and which must unavoidably make some demand upon his valuable time, already no doubt fully occupied, except upon the score of his well known attachment to the literary objects of the Society, and his conviction as a statesman and a public man, that by giving his support and countenance to a Society constituted for such purposes, he would be doing a public good, and performing a public duty. This Society has been constituted for the purpose of diffusing, without any kind of political bias or influence, a general knowledge of the scientific attainments and literature, the manners and the customs of the people of Asia, and especially of that large portion of them that Providence has placed under British rule. It is also constituted for the purpose of inquiring into and making better known the arts, manufactures, and productions of those countries. It cannot be necessary to point out the valuable information in various ways which may be derived from the labours of such a Society, as subsidiary to the good government of our distant, but most important, provinces in the East, and the extensive and mutually beneficial commerce carrying on between them and the ruling State. Sir George said he was persuaded

that our President would receive every possible assistance in his office from our learned and able Director, from our able and zealous Secretary, and from all the other official members of the Society. Yet his Lordship's position could certainly not be esteemed altogether a sinecure. The Council had recently, by an effort, which the state of the finances of the Society must have absolutely forbidden, but for the generous and well-timed liberality of the East India Company, accomplished the removal of the Society to a more commodious and spacious residence, where its valuable collection could be more advantageously displayed, and the various other objects of the Society more effectually carried out ; but it could not be said that we had yet reaped the fruits of this change. The progressive improvement in our position which we had anticipated, we now confidently rely will take place under his Lordship's administration. Sir George said, he thought the Society might reasonably calculate that much benefit would accrue, not only from his Lordship's personal exertion, but from his example. He said he could not resist taking this opportunity of endeavouring to correct an error which seemed to him to prevail very generally, respecting the character and constitution of our Society. It had been too often considered and represented as in the main a Society of mere Orientals ; and that the few not connected with Asia, who had joined it as amateurs, were rather to be considered as only incidental exceptions to the general rule. Sir George said he felt convinced that the Royal Asiatic Society, however paradoxical it might appear, would not be in a position fully to carry out all the purposes for which it was instituted, until its numbers were so extensively recruited from the community at large in this country, that the professed Orientalists belonging to it (though he trusted much more numerous than at present) would still be greatly outnumbered by those who had no Eastern tie or connexion whatever. He said it was true that the papers which enrich our transactions, the lectures which it is to be hoped will be delivered within these walls, and the collections that confer interest on our Museum, could only be contributed, as heretofore, by those gentlemen who, after spending a great portion of their time in the East, had the disinterested patriotism to sacrifice some of that leisure and repose to which they were so well entitled, in imparting a portion of their acquired knowledge, the fruits of their earlier labours, to their countrymen at home. But what are papers without readers ! Lectures without auditors ! a Museum without visitors ! Our Orientalists cannot be expected to come forward with their contributions unless stimulated and encouraged to do so by some unequivocal testimony of the interest which the public at large take in their labour and researches. The evils of ignorance on Oriental subjects, even in places in which they have a positive right on our careful study and attention, could not be more forcibly illustrated than by referring to the House of Commons in former times, where (as he was sure his Lordship would well remember) an Indian motion used to be considered *a dinner bell* ! not

surely through indifference to the condition of the millions of Hindus under our rule, and whose fate might depend upon the issue, but from that utter ignorance of all details concerning them, which could not but make such questions altogether distasteful, and consequently often abandoned to mere officials, in despair. It is the province of the Royal Asiatic Society to diffuse generally throughout the country the information by which this mist of ignorance may be dispelled; to bring together into one focus those who are able to impart this knowledge, and those who are desirous to receive it; and who are, in many instances, under public and moral obligation as legislators, to seek it. Sir George apologised for detaining the Society so long, and begged again to recommend the vote of thanks to the President, to the cordial approval of the Meeting.

COLONEL SYKES rose to second the motion. He said that few words were necessary in doing so. His Lordship's munificent patronage of the fine arts in general, and of Oriental literature, by the printing of the translation of Bopp's Comparative Grammar, and now by the preparation and publication of the Pali Code, the work of a Buddhist Menu, was the best guarantee of his Lordship's devotion to the interests of the Society. He felt confident that the stimulus which his Lordship had so successfully applied elsewhere would find a correspondent action in the working of the Society; and that the Society would speedily resume that position to which the very distinguished character and abilities of so many of its members gave it a just title.

LORD ELLESMERE requested the indulgence of the meeting for some difficulty and embarrassment in the performance of the simple and usual duty of returning thanks for the honour conferred upon him by the resolution just passed. For some such embarrassment, the novelty of the position in which he had the honour, for the first time, to address them, might be in itself an excuse. On this occasion, however, there were circumstances connected with his acceptance of the office he held, which increased that embarrassment, for they awakened feelings which, to this or any other audience, he could ill express to his own satisfaction. If he had not enjoyed the advantage of his lamented predecessor, Lord Auckland's, acquaintance, he might, with the assistance of their officers, and the instruction of their reports, have told them of services which Lord Auckland had rendered to their Society, and of the loss it had sustained in the sanction which his high character and abilities had given to their pursuits and labours. It happened, however, that for many years past, both before Lord Auckland's appointment to India, and subsequent to his return, he had enjoyed the privilege of his warm friendship and intimate acquaintance. Their intercourse had been interrupted and diminished by Lord Auckland's official avocations, but their friendship had never cooled. He could not forget that one of the last

occasions on which Lord Auckland had been able to abstract himself from those duties, the pressure of which had probably shortened his existence, for a brief enjoyment of those country pursuits which no younger man enjoyed more keenly, had been given to his (Lord Ellesmere's) domestic circle. He begged pardon for intruding these personal matters, but the Society would see how difficult it was for him to draw the line between the topics of public and private regret for such a loss. He believed that Lord Auckland had done much in India for the interests of education. This was consistent with what had always appeared to Lord Ellesmere a conspicuous feature of his character, a high value for mental cultivation, and a desire to promote its extension and improve its quality. If he remembered right, for he had to look back many years, one of the first occasions of their intercourse was connected with the establishment of two societies in London, the Zoological and the London University. He was not surprised that Lord Auckland should have returned from his Indian Government with a high appreciation of the labours of those whom he (Lord Ellesmere) was now addressing. He was not surprised that the contemplation of the monuments of fallen empires, of dynasties overthrown by our arms, and of superstitions which even our arms could not overthrow, or the influence of our purer faith extinguish, should have excited in him a warm sympathy with the pursuits of those who make it their business to trace the history of those dynasties, or decypher the abstruse characters with which these monuments are inscribed. In these respects he hoped that he (Lord Ellesmere) should be found to follow in his lamented predecessor's footsteps. In thanking Sir G. Staunton for the kindness of his expressions in moving the resolution, he would say that Sir George had expressed in better language than he could use the true and only motives which had dictated his acceptance of the office to which he had been elected. He had reason given him to believe that, at this particular moment, he might by that acceptance consult the convenience, and, to some slight extent, promote the objects of this Society, and he could only hope that his success might bear some proportion to his wishes. The perusal of the Report had suggested but too many other subjects of regret; among which he had to mention the loss of that distinguished public servant and zealous friend of this society, Sir A. Johnston. From him he (Lord Ellesmere) had just received a kind assurance of support in his new office, when it was followed by the melancholy intelligence of his loss. It would be wasting time if he should dwell on those subjects which had so successfully engaged the valuable labours of so many learned men: they were much better known to all present than to himself, but scarcely more highly appreciated. He hoped to be pardoned if he mentioned the subject which had excited a warm interest generally,—the remains of the ancient Assyria, brought to this country, and illustrated by the skill and labour of Layard and Rawlinson; and he trusted from what he had heard that the further assistance of the Government would not be wanting to prosecute the

researches that Gentleman had so ably commenced; for great as the result had been, he felt assured we were as yet only on the threshold of what was to be done, that we were on the verge of great discoveries. Everything might be expected from the liberality of the Government, and the efforts of the learned men now engaged on the most interesting course of archæological investigation perhaps which had ever been presented. He was unable to return thanks as he ought for the honour done him. Sir George Staunton had rightly interpreted the feelings which had induced him to accept the office tendered to him, for he could only consider himself an interloper on ground which he ought not to presume to tread on: but he hoped that even as such he might be of some use in furtherance of those high and important objects for which the Members of this Society were associated. His Lordship concluded by repeating his thanks.

COLONEL SYKES said that by the absence of a Member of the Society, he had been unexpectedly called upon to move a vote of thanks; but the qualifications of the individual to be thanked rendered the duty equally easy and pleasing, whether on his part, or on that of any other Member. A name and fame of European standing, and evidences of erudition exhibited so often in print, and at the table of the Society, were sufficient warrant for the vote he had now to propose. When he mentioned the Director of the Society, he was sure that all would concur in opinion with him that he had no onerous task imposed upon him. The Members felt that their Director was their best, and most valued contributor, and that without his aid, their reputation could not have had so broad a basis as it now stood upon. There could be little question, that unless the Society, in addition to its archæological and merely literary labours, could go before the public as a useful body in communicating facts illustrative of the religious, moral, social, and political condition of the people of Asia, and give an account of Eastern productions, as well as in communicating to the East the great results of European progress, that it did but the half, and the least valuable half, of its duty. It was only through the exertions of the Director, and of other men treading in his steps, that the whole objects of the Society could be accomplished. None might do the work so thoroughly and efficiently; but many Members of the Society had it in their power, by recording the information they possessed, to satisfy the public, that it was worthy of support, equally by those connected, as by those unconnected with the East. It was true that the Society wanted both members and money; but members and money were insufficient as far as the real interests of the Society were concerned, if the workings of the Society were confined to the walls of this house in a few routine, bi-monthly meetings, and the practical objects contemplated when the Society was founded were overlooked. Their Director had perseveringly laboured to prevent the Society from falling into this category; and he therefore moved—

“That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Director for his constant attention to the best interests of the Society, and for his valuable contributions to the Journal.”

NATHANIEL BLAND, Esq., seconded the motion, rather as a personal gratification to himself, than from a consideration that his own or any other individual's expression of feeling could add weight to the amount of gratitude, esteem, and affection due from the Society to their Director, as the constant attendant on, and frequent Chairman of their Meetings—the most learned contributor to their Journal, and on whom the mantle of the venerable Colebrooke had so worthily and justly descended.

The Director thanked the Meeting for the continued expression of their satisfaction with his services, and assured them that as long as those services were thought of any value he should most readily and cheerfully render them. The prosperity and credit of the Society must ever have his warmest wishes, however imperfect his endeavours to promote them. He could promise little except his attendance, which should be given whenever opportunity permitted, although he hoped that he should now be occasionally relieved of that prominent part in the Society's proceedings, which the lamented loss of their late President had recently imposed upon him. The Society must look to its Members, whether in this country or abroad, for the most efficient means of maintaining its character and usefulness, for the communications respecting the literature and science of India, which gave interest to its meetings, and diffused by their publication a valuable body of information. We had no reason to complain of a dearth of such communication, and the ancient literature of the East, and the vegetable wealth of India had received, since the beginning of the season, invaluable illustration from the labours of Rawlinson and Thomas, of Newbold and Royle. As long as such contributors supplied the Society with communications, he doubted not of the continuance of its prosperity, although its funds might be subject to that temporary depression which was not unfrequent in the finances of literary institutions. Before sitting down, the Director adverted briefly to a few circumstances connected with the cultivation of Oriental letters, which might not yet have come under the notice of the Members generally. The first was the receipt of a curious specimen of typography and comparative philology—the Lord's Prayer in six hundred languages, printed under the superintendence of Mr. Auer, the head of the Imperial Press of Vienna. The part that most interested the Society was that which gave two hundred versions in their appropriate characters, including all the dialects of India, and a series of alphabets, comprehending all those of the East, beginning with the Egyptian Phonetic, the Cuneiform, and the Lāt alphabet of India. As representing a collection of moveable types, it might be asserted that all the printing-presses in the United Kingdom could not

produce its peer. The next subject was the progress making in the printing of the Vedas. Through the munificent patronage of the Court of Directors, the first volume of the Rig Veda was nearly completed, under the editorship of Dr. Müller, at Oxford. A translation in French of the two first books of the same Veda, by M. Langlois, has recently appeared at Paris. The like liberal encouragement of the Court had enabled Dr. Weber to undertake the publication of the Yajur Veda, at Berlin, of which also the first volume was about to appear. Professor Benfey had lately published the text of the Sâma Veda, at Göttingen, with great care and remarkable labour; so that there was now a prospect of our being possessed of the oldest authorities of the institutions and religion of the Hindus, without which nothing certain could be affirmed of their primitive condition. Lastly, he noticed the first volume of a work of great importance to the modern history of India, lately received, modestly entitled "A Bibliographical Index to the Mohammedan Historians of India," but containing copious original notices of the authors and their works, amounting to more than two hundred. This is the work of Mr. Elliot, of the Bengal Civil Service, and Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department. It is to be hoped that his public avocations will not prevent his completing a publication which will be so rich a source of valuable and authentic materials for what is still wanting—a comprehensive history of India, from the days of Mahmud of Ghizni to the subversion of the Mogul Empire.

COLONEL SYKES begged leave to add to the enumeration of works mentioned by the Director, elucidatory of Védic literature, what his reserve had omitted, and that was the translation of the Rig Veda by the Director, which was proceeding *pari passu* with the publication of the text.

JOHN MACPHERSON MACLEOD, Esq., thought it was quite unnecessary to say a single word in support of the vote he had the honour to propose: all were so sensible of the services rendered by the Vice-Presidents and Council, that they felt they were only discharging a debt when they expressed publicly their high appreciation of the duties performed by those gentlemen. On the present occasion, they had additional cause to be grateful to the Vice-Presidents and Council, since the calamities that had befallen our Society in the demise of our late noble President, and of Sir Alexander Johnston, must have thrown additional duties on the surviving Members of the Council. He would therefore move—

"That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Vice-Presidents and to the Council, for their great attention to the affairs of the Society."

SIR GEORGE STAUNTON said, that being the only Vice-President present, it fell to his lot to rise again, though unwilling to do so, after troubling the Meeting so much at length. He begged to return, in the name of his col-

leagues, their grateful thanks for the honour done them. They had lost a valuable Vice-President in the decease of Sir Alexander Johnston; but he trusted that their vote of this day would make them some amends by putting into his place his talented and valued friend Mr. Holt Mackenzie, who would be able to thank them far more ably and eloquently than he could do. He would only add, that he had always, from the beginning, been most desirous to promote the interests of the Society, and that his best services should be always at their command.

MR. MACKENZIE said that he had great pleasure in submitting the motion of thanks to the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Librarian, which had been placed in his hands. He need not, he believed, urge how much the efficiency of the Council and the success of the Society depended on those officers, who were to them in fact what a staff is to an army, and on whom they must greatly depend for their progress in the field of their peaceful conquests; and he was sure that he only gave utterance to the sentiments of every Member present when he bore his humble testimony to the zeal and ability with which the duties incumbent on those officers were discharged. From the satisfaction he felt in moving this resolution, there was only one drawback, arising from a circumstance which he knew his friends, the Secretary and Treasurer, lamented as much as he did—he meant the want of a wider scope for their labours—in a large number of Members, in a more abundant supply of papers for their Journal, in more frequent communications to enrich their proceedings, and in ampler pecuniary resources. He was sure their Treasurer would be delighted to have his trouble and responsibility multiplied tenfold by a tenfold increase of their income and disbursements; and their Secretary and his assistants would be delighted to afford to ten times the number of their present Members and Correspondents the same co-operation and assistance, which every one communicating with them, whether with the view of giving or of gaining information, always found cheerfully and ungrudgingly bestowed. He trusted that with the extension of the military and civil relations of our Government into new and interesting regions, the Society would find new fields of investigation: but in the oldest of our possessions there were abundant objects of interest to be explored; and to labourers in either field he was sure their Secretariat would heartily offer every facility they could desire in the prosecution of their researches and the publication of their results. He would only add that the works soon about to appear would satisfactorily evince that much more had been done during the past year than might be inferred from the proceedings actually published and circulated during the period, and concluded with moving—

“That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Librarian, for their attention to the duties of their valuable offices.”

Mr. CLARKE expressed his gratitude for the kindness with which his humble services were always received, though he regretted that they fell far short of what was due to interests so important as those of the Royal Asiatic Society. The report which had just been read showed a diminution in the number of Members which occasioned him much concern, as he had hoped that a very different result would have speedily followed the great improvements which have been effected since the removal into their present house. He still hoped, however, that as those improvements should become more generally known, and more duly appreciated, a greater number of persons would be found desirous of participating in the advantages which the library and the collections of the Society hold out for the acquirement of information, and the prosecution of research in every subject of interest connected with India. Meantime, in reference to the withdrawal of several Members, on the ground of their being prevented, by absence from London or other causes, from attending the Meetings of the Society, he hoped that the Members of the Society would impress on any friends who might contemplate resignation on such grounds, that it is only by a large number of contributing members that the efficiency of their valuable Society can be maintained. He could not, however, but advert to the great advantage which the Society might derive from the exertions of a Secretary, who to zeal in the cause of the Society should add leisure and power to contribute largely to its publications, and to keep up an extensive correspondence in every quarter from which valuable information and important communications could be obtained. From such services the greatest benefits would assuredly ensue, and he would be rejoiced to yield the office with which he was now honoured to a gentleman thus qualified to do justice to the capabilities of the Royal Asiatic Society. He could not advert to the duties of the office of Secretary, without especially noticing the important services rendered by his talented and excellent Deputy Mr. Norris, and though the value of that gentleman's labours was now pretty generally known and estimated, he should feel it his duty to submit a special vote of recognition of his claims on the gratitude of the Society. Before doing so, however, he was desirous of introducing to the notice of the meeting Mr. John Dowson, who, since Mr. Norris's appointment to the office of translator to the Foreign Office, had contributed some share to the efficiency of the Secretariat. Mr. Dowson was not unknown to the Society, a paper of his having been published in the *Journal* of 1846; but they may not be aware that by unwearied industry and great energy, united to ability and talent, he had attained an extensive knowledge of Sanskrit and Persian, and some acquaintance with several of the cognate languages of India—to which he has added the study of the history, laws, and institutions of the Hindoo and Mahomedan inhabitants of our Indian possessions. Mr. Clarke concluded by moving—

“That the thanks of the Meeting be presented to Mr. Norris, the Assistant-Secretary, for his very valuable, talented, and laborious services, in

superintending the publication of Major Rawlinson's papers on the Cuneiform inscriptions, and for his other important operations in aid of the labours of this Society."

CHARLES ELLIOTT, Esq., returned thanks for the honour done him. He regretted that the duties of Treasurer were not more onerous, and trusted they would soon be so, as the valuable papers lately published, and now publishing by the Society, could not fail to excite a great degree of interest in the public mind, and attract new members.

Mr. Clarke's motion having been seconded, was carried unanimously.

Major J. A. MOORE and W. A. SHAW, Esq., having been appointed scrutineers, the Meeting proceeded to ballot for the Officers and Council of the Society for the year ensuing.

At the close of the ballot the Right Honourable Holt Mackenzie was declared unanimously elected a Vice-President of the Society, in the place of Sir Alexander Johnston, deceased.

The three other Vice-Presidents, the Director, the Treasurer, the Librarian, and the Secretary, were re-elected to their offices.

The following gentlemen were declared unanimously elected Members of the Council:—Samuel Ball, Esq.; N. Bland, Esq.; Harry Borrodaile, Esq.; Major-General J. Briggs; Major-General J. Caulfield, C.B.; Sir Thomas Edward Colebrooke, Bart., M.P.; Walter Ewer, Esq.; James Ewing, Esq.; James Fergusson, Esq.; R. H. Holland, Esq.; J. MacPherson Macleod, Esq.; Major John A. Moore; Major-General Sir Wm. Morison, K.C.B., M.P.; William Platt, Esq.; Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Sykes; and W. S. W. Vaux, Esq.